

### Amendment to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising a tread, said tread comprising a tread cap and a tread base in a tread base to tread cap volume ratio ranging from about 0.25 to about 1; said tread cap comprising, based on 100 parts by weight rubber (phr): 100 phr of cis 1,4 polyisoprene natural rubber; from about 25 to about 50 phr of carbon black; and from about 8 to about 35 phr of silica;

said tread base comprising, based on 100 parts by weight rubber (phr): 100 phr of cis 1,4 polyisoprene natural rubber; from about 25 to about 50 phr of carbon black; and from about 8 to about 35 phr of silica;

wherein said tread cap has a stiffness greater than that of said tread base, said stiffness characterized by a modulus G', said tread cap having G' ranging from about 1.2 MPa to about 1.6 MPa and said tread base having G' ranging from about 1.0 MPa to about 1.3 MPa; said stiffness further characterized by a 300 percent modulus, said tread cap having a 300 percent modulus ranging from about 10 MPa to about 12 MPa and said tread base having a 300 percent modulus ranging from about 8 MPa to about 11 MPa; said tread comprising a tread cap and a tread base in a tread base to tread cap volume ratio ranging from about 0.5 to about 1.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein said tread cap comprises from about 9 to about 25 phr of silica, and from about 25 to about 45 phr of carbon black.

5. (Original) The pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein said tread base comprises from about 5 to about 15 phr of silica and from about 25 to about 35 phr of carbon black.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) A pneumatic tire comprising a tread, said tread comprising a tread cap and a tread base in a tread base to tread cap volume ratio ranging from about 0.25 to about 1; said tread cap comprising, based on 100 parts by weight rubber (phr): 100 phr of cis 1,4

polyisoprene natural rubber; from about 25 to about 50 phr of carbon black; and from about 8 to about 35 phr of silica;

said tread base comprising, based on 100 parts by weight rubber (phr): 100 phr of cis 1,4 polyisoprene natural rubber; from about 25 to about 50 phr of carbon black; and from about 8 to about 35 phr of silica;

wherein said tread cap has a stiffness greater than that of said tread base, said stiffness characterized by a modulus  $G'$ , said tread cap having  $G'$  ranging from about 1.2 MPa to about 1.6 MPa and said tread base having  $G'$  ranging from about 1.0 MPa to about 1.3 MPa; said tread comprising a tread cap and a tread base in a tread base to tread cap volume ratio ranging from about 0.5 to about 1.

8. (New) The pneumatic tire of claim 7, wherein said tread cap comprises from about 9 to about 25 phr of silica, and from about 25 to about 45 phr of carbon black.

9. (New) The pneumatic tire of claim 7, wherein said tread base comprises from about 5 to about 15 phr of silica and from about 25 to about 35 phr of carbon black.

10. (New) A pneumatic tire comprising a tread, said tread comprising a tread cap and a tread base in a tread base to tread cap volume ratio ranging from about 0.25 to about 1;

said tread cap comprising, based on 100 parts by weight rubber (phr): 100 phr of cis 1,4 polyisoprene natural rubber; from about 25 to about 50 phr of carbon black; and from about 8 to about 35 phr of silica;

said tread base comprising, based on 100 parts by weight rubber (phr): 100 phr of cis 1,4 polyisoprene natural rubber; from about 25 to about 50 phr of carbon black; and from about 8 to about 35 phr of silica;

wherein said tread cap has a stiffness greater than that of said tread base, said stiffness characterized by a 300 percent modulus, said tread cap having a 300 percent modulus ranging from about 10 MPa to about 12 MPa and said tread base having a 300 percent modulus ranging from about 8 MPa to about 11 MPa; said tread comprising a tread cap and a tread base in a tread base to tread cap volume ratio ranging from about 0.5 to about 1.

11. (New) The pneumatic tire of claim 10, wherein said tread cap comprises from about 9 to about 25 phr of silica, and from about 25 to about 45 phr of carbon black.

12. (New) The pneumatic tire of claim 10, wherein said tread base comprises from about 5 to about 15 phr of silica and from about 25 to about 35 phr of carbon black.